

Life Group Leader Notes-- Title: The Grand Interruption: Learning the Importance of Children in the Kingdom of God ---and doing something about it!
Focal text: Matthew 19:13-14, February 28, 2021, DLB

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Recognizing key points in the history of God's people and seeing how God's heart for children is prominently emphasized. See where God calls His people to action with children, and how it affects the Kingdom of God throughout history (and beyond).

The Divine Pattern: **Big defining event ... big emphasis on the heart of God for children, and the call for us to do something about it.**

1. **The Creation of Adam and Eve** is the Big Event! (Gen. 1:27-28) The Big Emphasis is **our being created as male and female**, the call for them to do something about it is **to be fruitful and multiply, i.e. to have children**. They are not just to enjoy paradise by themselves. They are not just to work by themselves and for themselves.
2. **Be conscious of the instances where couples cannot have children when they have a heart to have them.** I believe the Song of the Barren One in Isaiah 54 ministers to such a woman/ married couple/ Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,"
Example—the **Missionary Amy Carmichael** who rescued young women in India who were destined to be given to pagan temple worship, or even death.
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Paul had no biological children!
Abraham's wife Sarah had no children for 25 years plus, PLUS!
3. God's purpose in "**choosing**" **Abraham (Gen. 18:19)**: Big Event is **Choosing Abraham**. The verb in Hebrew is **yahdah (יָדַח)** which could be translated, **made Himself known to Abraham, SO THAT** The Big Emphasis is God making Himself know. Ask the Life Group to

pick out revelations of God to Abraham. (Bringing Him safely to the promised land, interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah...substitute ram in Isaac's place...Gen 22, naming the Mountain: "God will provide Mountain" where God's only Son would be crucified...) **NIV 84 19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children** and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, **so that** the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him."

An Abrahamic Prayer: God, "please make yourself known to me... so I can make you known and better known to my/our children."

4. Giving of the Law Exodus 20: Big Event is **receiving the Law at Mount Sinai—The Ten Commandments**. The Big Emphasis is **putting God first (#s 1-4)** and the call for them to do something about it is **Honor Father and Mother, to guard the holy commitment of marriage: not to commit adultery, not to even covet a neighbor's wife.**
5. **Entering the Promised Land (Deuteronomy. 6:4-9)**
Big Event is **the nation of Israel receiving a land, a land of their own that they could rule over as God's people**. The Big Emphasis is **to love the Lord their God with all their heart, all their soul, all their strength** and the call for them to do some things concerning their children it are **6 These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. 8 Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 9 Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates**
6. **The Wisdom Literature—especially Proverbs**
Big Event is receiving the Wisdom. The Big Emphasis is **focusing on children (40 times the words "my son"**. The calls for them to do something about it are many; one that helped me was to base my discipline of my children on love and delight instead of my anger. **Prov. 3:11**

My son, do not despise the LORD'S **discipline** and do not resent his **rebuke**, **12** because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in. (see James 1:20 "for the **anger** of man does not produce the **righteousness** of God.")

7. **Coming of the Messiah** Malachi 2:11;
2:14-15; 4:5-6

(1) Mal. 2:11 Judah has broken faith. A detestable thing has been committed in Israel and in Jerusalem: Judah has desecrated the sanctuary the LORD loves, by marrying the daughter of a foreign god.

ACTION--choose a Christian mate. If too late for that, live in such a way that it tends to draw them to God. See 1 Peter 3: 1 Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives,

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(2) Malachi 2:14-15 14 You ask, "Why?" [context... Why doesn't God answer my prayers?!, I weep and call out to you and nothing happens!] It is because the LORD is acting as the witness between you and the wife of your youth, because you have broken faith with her, though she is your partner, the wife of your marriage covenant.

ACTION--husbands, treat your wife in a God-honoring way, or God will not listen to your prayers

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(3) 2:15 Has not [the LORD] made them one? In flesh and spirit they are his. And why one? Because **he was seeking godly offspring**.

ACTION-- notice the heart of God for godly offspring

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(4) Malachi 4:5-6 "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will **turn the hearts of the fathers to their children**, and the **hearts of the children to their fathers**; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."

ACTION-- turning the hearts of parents to their children, and the hearts of children to their parents prepares for the Messianic blessing.

Today, the pattern of dedicating our children, Roles of singles, parents, grandparents, children's ministry (Ben Wilson & his team) ...

Notice the impact of Joshua's covenant with God regarding his household, and his desire to have Israel in such an agreement, and the amazing result: 24:15 "But as for **me and my house, we will serve the LORD."'" **Joshua 24: 19-29****

Josh. 24:31 Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel.